

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A polymer in the solid state obtainable by reaction of at least one polymer **A** prepared from

- at least one monomer **a** selected from among unsaturated monocarboxylic and dicarboxylic acids and analogs of unsaturated monocarboxylic and dicarboxylic acids,

and

- optionally, at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer **b**,

with at least one polymer **B** which is terminated at one end by end groups which are not reactive under customary reaction conditions and is hydroxy- or amine-functionalized at the other end,

and, optionally, at least one amine **C**.

2. (Original) A polymer in the solid state obtainable by reaction of at least one monomer **a** selected from among unsaturated monocarboxylic and dicarboxylic acids and analogs of unsaturated monocarboxylic and dicarboxylic acids,

in the presence of a free-radical former

with at least one monomer **c** selected from the group consisting of unsaturated esters and amides of a polymer **B** which is terminated at one end by end groups which are not reactive under customary reaction conditions and is hydroxy- or amine-functionalized at the other end,

and, optionally, at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer **b**.

3. (Currently Amended) The polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 1 ~~claim 1 or 2~~, characterized in that the analog of the unsaturated monocarboxylic or dicarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of acid salts, acid halides, acid anhydrides and esters.

4. (Currently Amended) The polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the polymer **B** which is terminated at one end by end groups which are not reactive under customary reaction conditions and is hydroxy- or amine-functionalized at the other end has the following formula:



where x, y, z are each, independently of one another, in the range 0-250
and $x+y+z=3$ or above;

$\text{X}=\text{OH}$ or NHR' , where $\text{R}'=\text{alkyl}$ having 1-20 carbon atoms, alkylaryl having 7-20 carbon atoms or H, preferably $\text{R}'=\text{H}$;

EO=ethylenoxy, PO=propylenoxy, BuO=butylenoxy or isobutylenoxy;
and R=alkyl having 1-20 carbon atoms or alkylaryl having 7-20 carbon
atoms.

5. (Currently Amended) The polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the polymer **B** contains bifunctional polymer impurities in a proportion by weight of less than 3% by weight, preferably less than 2% by weight, in particular less than 1% by weight, based on the weight of the polymer **B**.
6. (Currently Amended) The polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 4 ~~claim 4 or 5~~, characterized in that the proportion by weight of the sum of propylene oxide (PO) and butylene oxide (BO) units does not exceed 29% by weight of the polymer **B**, in particular is less than 20%.
7. (Currently Amended) The polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that monomer **a** is maleic acid, itaconic acid or crotonic acid, preferably acrylic acid or methacrylic acid.
8. (Currently Amended) The polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the molecular weight of the polymer **B** is about 120-20 000 g/mol, in particular about 250-10 000 g/mol.
9. (Currently Amended) The polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the polymer **A** has a molecular weight in

the range 1000-100 000 g/mol, preferably 1000-50 000 g/mol, particularly preferably 2000-30 000 g/mol, in particular 2000-15 000 g/mol.

10. (Currently Amended) The polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the molar ratio of the monomer building blocks **a** and **b** in the polymer **A** is in the range 100:0-20:80, preferably 100:0-30:70, in particular 98:2-70:30.

11. (Currently Amended) The polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the polymer in the solid state is in the form of powder, flakes or in sheets.

12. (Currently Amended) The polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that at least one concrete fluidizer is added to the polymer prior to solidification.

13. (Currently Amended) The polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that at least one additive for hydraulically or latently hydraulically setting binders from the group consisting of setting retarders, setting accelerators, viscosity modifiers and shrinkage reducers is added to the polymer prior to solidification.

14. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 1 ~~claim 1 or any of claims 3-13~~, characterized in that the polymer in the solid state is obtained by cooling a polymer melt and is, optionally, comminuted to

give a transportable form.

15. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 2 ~~any of claims 2-13~~ by copolymerization of at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer containing carboxyl groups or analogs thereof with at least one ester or amide of ethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic or dicarboxylic acids with a polymer **B** and, optionally, further, copolymerizable monomers and, optionally, in a solvent which is subsequently removed.

16. (Currently Amended) The process for preparing a polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 14 ~~claim 14 or 15~~, characterized in that water-soluble or water-dispersible accelerators for the curing reaction of the polymer melt are added to the polymer melt prior to cooling.

17. (Original) The process for preparing a polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that accelerators selected from the group consisting of inorganic and organic salts, urea and higher alcohols are used as water-soluble or water-dispersible accelerators for the solidification reaction of the polymer melt.

18. (Currently Amended) The use of the polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 13~~ as dispersant for aqueous dispersions.

19. (Currently Amended) The use of the polymer in the solid state as claimed claim 1 ~~in any of claims 1 to 13~~ as fluidizer for hydraulically setting systems.

20. (Currently Amended) The use of the polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-13~~ as fluidizer in ready-to-use mortar systems.

21. (Currently Amended) The use of the polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-13~~ dissolved in water as fluidizer for cement-containing systems.

22. (Currently Amended) An aqueous solution obtained by dissolving the polymer in the solid state as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-13~~ in water.